Rise in drug abuse

685. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug abuse in the country is on the rise and small towns and villages are the new victims;

(b) whether it is a fact that the country has a higher average of opiate (psychotropic drugs) users than the rest of the world; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the widespread abuse of heroin, opium and brown sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Recent data does not conclusively indicate that drug abuse is on the rise especially in small towns and villages.

(b) No.

(c) In addition to strict surveillance and preventive steps taken by the enforcement agencies, this Ministry, in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organisations, take steps to create awareness and educate people about ill effects of drug abuse on the individual, the family and the society at large. Efforts are also made to increase community participation and public cooperation in the reduction of demand for dependence-producing substances.

Functioning of NGOs

686. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the NGOs have been doing commendable work in various fields for the welfare of people all over the country;

(b) whether all the NGOs have been given recognition by Government;

(c) whether any of them have ever been found to be involved in some unlawful activities or misappropriation of funds; if so, the details thereof;